(a) whether it is proposed to sanction Rs. 15 crores for 9, State Universities of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of the amount proposed to be sanctioned for Utkal and Fakir Mohan Universities of Orissa; and

(d) what is the status of grant of Central University status to Utkal University which is pending since long with the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Out of 9 Universities in the State of Orissa, which have been declared fit by the University Grants Commission to receive central assistance under the Section 12B of the University Grants Commission Act, -1956, six State Universities have been provided development grants to the tune of Rs. 15.51 crores during the Tenth Five Year Plan, upto 15.2.2007.

(c) An amount of Rs. 423.20 lakhs for Utkal University and Rs. 109.25 lakhs for Fakir Mohan University have been earmarked as development grants during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). Grafts amounting to Rs. 349.60 lakhs and Rs. 90.25 lakhs have been released to these two Universities respectively, upto 15.2.2007.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Illiteracy in the country

15. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per UNESCO report, the number of illiterates in India is the highest in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the survey conducted by Government in 2005 through Social and Rural Research Institute, showed that 13.5 million children were out of the school; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Government to control this high rise especially in the backward regions of the country, i.e. Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2006, there are 771 million illiterates in 15+age group in the world, out of which 268 million (34.6%) are in India alone.

(c) As per a national survey commissioned by the Government in 2005, the estimated number of out.of school children in the country is 1,34,59,734, which is 6.94% of the total children in the age-group of 6-13 years. This figure has reduced to 7 million as on 31.3.2006 as reported by the States/Union Territories.

(d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) seeks universalisation of elementary education as well as universal retention by 2010. SSA provides for several varieties of interventions, *inter alia,* opening of new schools, setting up of Education Guarantee Scheme Centres and Alternative and Innovative Education Facilities to enhance enrolment, incentives, focus on education of girls and weaker sections of the society, and to improve quality of education in schools.

In addition, context specific interventions for out-of-school children who are 'hardest to reach' such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, etc. have also been taken under the SSA.

Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have been allocated 22.04% of SSA outlay for achieving the goal of Universalisation of elementary education.

States' share in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

16. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested that States should bear half of the cost of providing education to all children aged 6 to 14 years by 2010 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, whether this will greatly affect implementation of the scheme;

(c) if so, to what extent States have agreed;